



TIMES

Official Newsletter Published Bimonthly to Keep Residents Informed

Vol. 11 No.5

TO: The Citizens of Town & Country

FROM: Mayor Diane Hertlein

It had been my sincere hope that you would now be receiving the October/November issue of the Town & Country Times, our city's newsletter. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep our citizens informed about what is going on in our city government and communicate actions taken by your elected officials to serve you. As such, this newsletter must be factual and straightforward. It should exhibit good judgement and experienced leadership while reflecting a generosity of spirit that promotes cooperation in our community. I have worked diligently with the Aldermen to produce a newsletter that our community can be proud of. Despite working with the Aldermen for an additional 25 days beyond the original deadline for printing the newsletter, a consensus has not been reached that would allow for printing of this newsletter. As you may be aware, several of the Aldermen have refused, on three separate votes, to allow payment for the last newsletter that was published and sent to our citizenry. Again, several of the Aldermen have stated they would not approve payment for the publishing and mailing of this October/November issue. This is a great disappointment to me as I have worked tirelessly toward creating consensus for a forthright and informative newsletter. I am saddened that there is not more of a spirit of cooperation among our community's elected officials.

Our citizens have an absolute right to be kept informed regarding the business of our community. I am, therefore, taking it upon myself to send an abbreviated newsletter to keep you informed of the city's activities.

♦ **WARD II ALDERMANIC VACANCY FILLED**

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held on September 26th for the purpose of appointing an Alderman to fill the vacancy created when I was elected Mayor and to serve for the remainder of that term until the election this coming April. Alderman Clayton (Ward II) nominated Rob Nevett and Alderman Hamilton (Ward I) nominated Patty Wiggins to fill the vacancy. Alderman Clayton stated that in a poll conducted to determine the preference of Ward II residents, 400 signed a petition in support of Dr. Nevett, while 14 supported Ms. Wiggins. Despite the overwhelming support shown for Dr. Nevett, the four aldermen from Wards I and IV cast their votes for Ms. Wiggins. The issue of whether four or five votes are needed to appoint an Alderman remains an unresolved issue. Our City Attorney has advised us that the safest course is to make an appointment by five votes, as there is the possibility that any decisions made by an appointee who had only four votes could be challenged in the courts. As a means of protecting our city from such exposure, Alderman Cox changed his initial vote for Dr. Nevett so that Ms. Wiggins could be seated with the necessary five votes. Ms. Wiggins took the oath of office after the special meeting was adjourned. Congratulations, Alderman Wiggins.

◆ **GOOD NEWS**

The citizens of Town & Country who met at an open meeting this summer to voice their concerns about excessive traffic on Masonridge Road were rewarded by the passage of an ordinance which retains the speed limit and stop signs, which during the 90-day trial period reduced traffic from 7,000 to 5,000 cars per day without increasing traffic on Mason Road.

I am also pleased to report that the completed Phase IV Nettlecreek stormwater project functioned as planned during the heavy summer rains. The last phase of the project is now being designed.

◆ **NEWS BRIEFS**

***Conservation Commission ; Alderman Dallas Cox, Chairman**

Many projects are underway, including an inventory of natural assets of our community, a study of grading practices with the intent of guarding against grading which may lead to drainage and storm water problems, and a thorough study of information regarding the issue of deer control. The commission is undertaking a voluntary natural heritage tree program with interested citizens. If you have an old, majestic tree, we are interested in determining its age. Please contact us and we will place plaques to recognize those trees that are 200 years old or more. Large trees, open space of woods and meadows, greenways of ravines and drainageways, songbirds, butterflies, foxes, great horned owls and reasonable number of deer are special assets of our community. They are also major ingredients of our high residential property values. Ideas and participation by interested citizens in service on the Conservation Commission are gladly welcomed. Let us hear from you.

***Planning and Zoning Commission; Skip Brown, Chairman**

The Planning and Zoning Commission has pending one request dealing with a proposal for significant commercial development to be called the "Fountains at 270". The pending request is to rezone about 19 acres of residentially zoned property located south of Springdale Lane and abutting I-270 for a Planned Office Park. Public hearings have been held and the commission awaits additional information from the developer before deciding. At September's meeting the Commission reviewed and recommended a Preliminary Site Development Plan for approval by the Board of Aldermen for an office development at the southeast corner of I-64 and Highway 141. The commission continues to oversee the update of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. November's meeting will be held on the 29th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

***Finance Committee; Alderman Lea Clayton, Chairman**

The tax rate on all residential and commercial property in Town & Country has been set for 1995. The rate of 50 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation will be effective for tax collections made at the end of this calendar year. This rate has been maintained since 1991 and is below the tax rate allowable by state law.

***Public Works and Stormwater Commission; Alderman Lynn Krause, Chairman**

Several street and stormwater projects have been either completed or will near completion (weather permitting) this year. In Ward I, stormwater control and street overlay have been completed. Hawthorne Estates stormwater project has commenced. In Ward III, Strathmore and Templeton Place street repairs and overlay have been completed. In Ward IV, Cheshire Lane and Babler Road asphalt overlays have been completed. Your patience during these projects has been greatly appreciated.

***Health and Sanitation Commission, Alderman Patty Wiggins, Chairman**

Recently appointed chairman, Patty Wiggins, plans to for the commission to address many items, including trash pick-up, composting and the 4 R's (reduce, reuse, reject, and recycle), as well as other issues of citizen concern. New members are welcome.

***Police Department; Skip Del Mar, Chief of Police**

Our officers have broken one of the news-making burglaries of this summer. The same individual or group has apparently committed six residential burglaries in our City this year. While processing one of those burglary scenes, Detective Corporal Steve Nelke lifted some fingerprints which positively indentified the suspect, Tamara Dolinska, who is wanted by the authorities in five states. You can help by being alert to anyone or anything suspicious in your neighborhood by calling 911 and asking us to investigate. Always keep your doors locked and your garage door closed, even when you are working in your yard.

♦ MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

I encourage you to attend the meetings of our Board of Aldermen, held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, as often as you can. Not only will you see and hear the proceedings firsthand, but you will also gain a better understanding of how your city is being governed. For your information, complete minutes of all Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Aldermen are available at City Hall or via fax.



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